

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Notice of Allowance mailed on November 22, 2005 for this application.

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Applicants have amended the specification herein to better correlate the specification to the amended drawing figures. The amendments to the specification made herein merely correct inconsistencies in the drawing labels, *i.e.* by changing "photograph" to "figure." No new matter has been added to the application.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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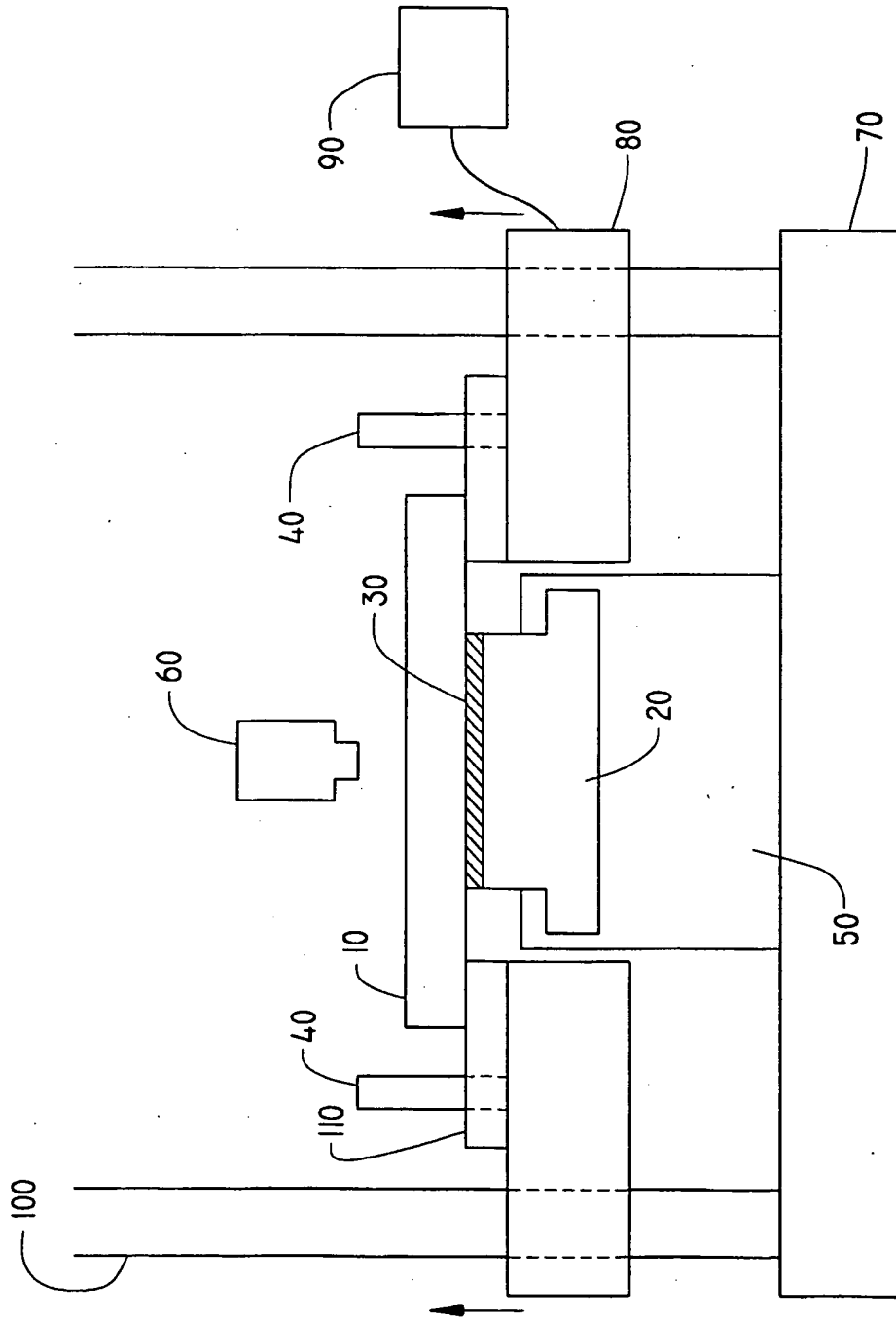


Figure 1: apparatus used for determining the cavitation strength of a sample.

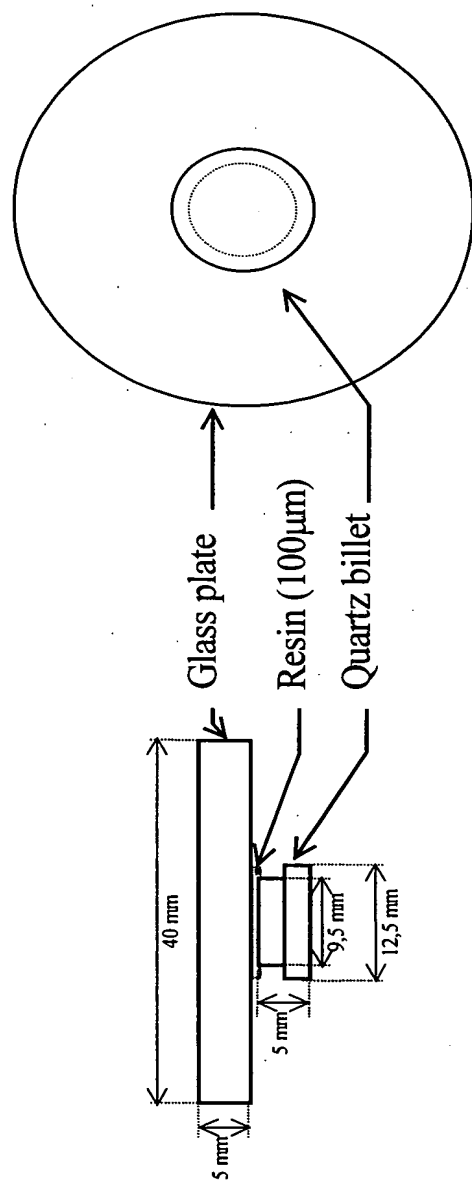


Figure 2: Sample geometry.

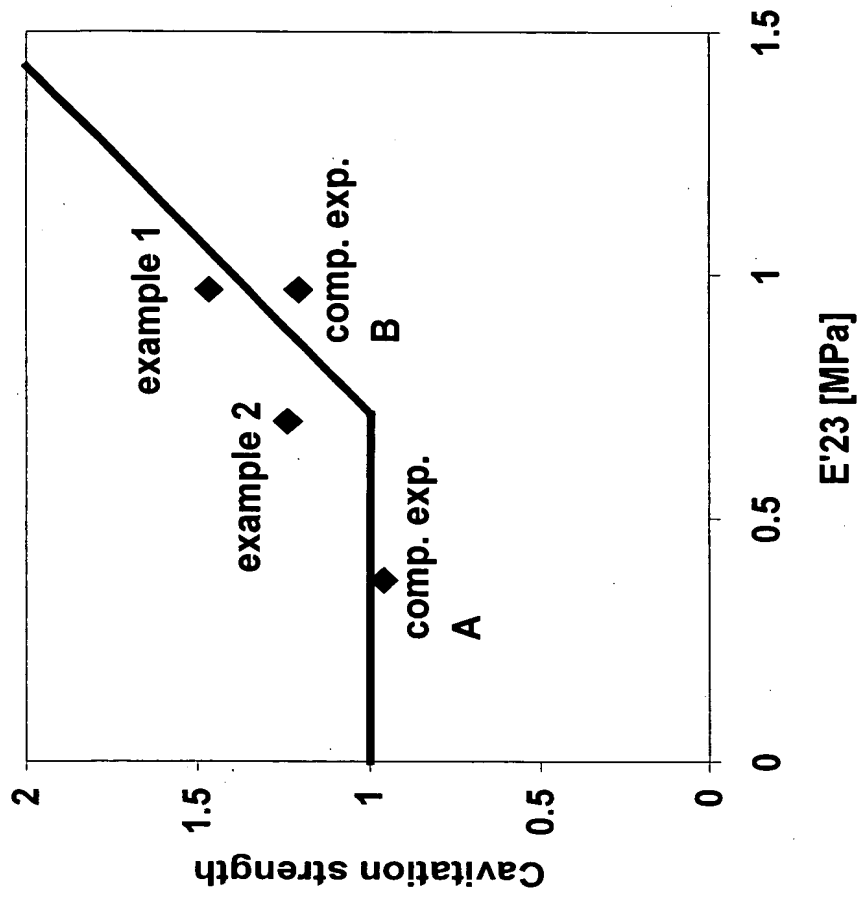


Figure 3: Cavitation strength at the tenth cavitation σ_{cav}^{10} as a function of E'_{23}

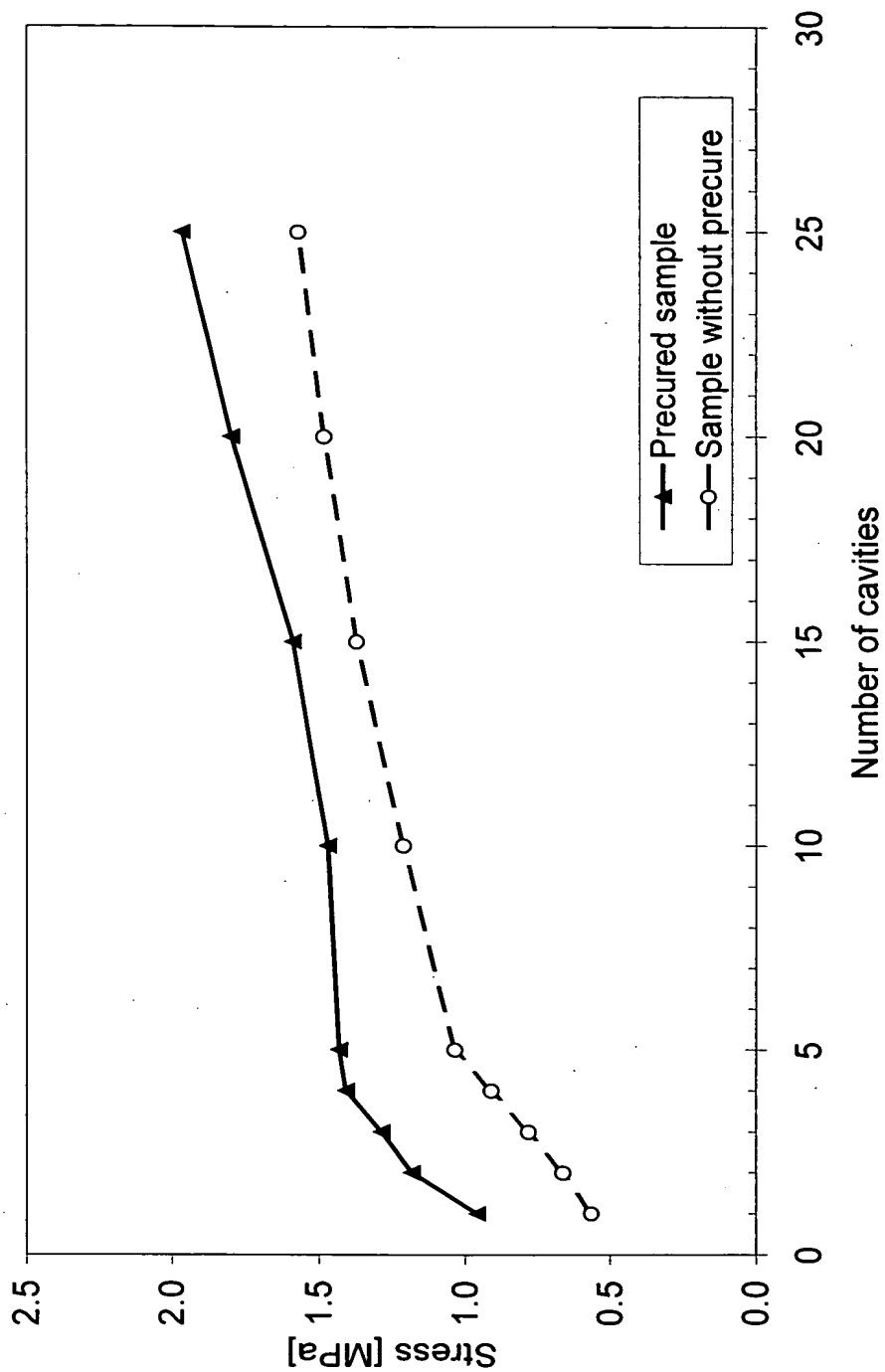


Figure 4: Cavitation strengths of a primary coating sample with and without precure

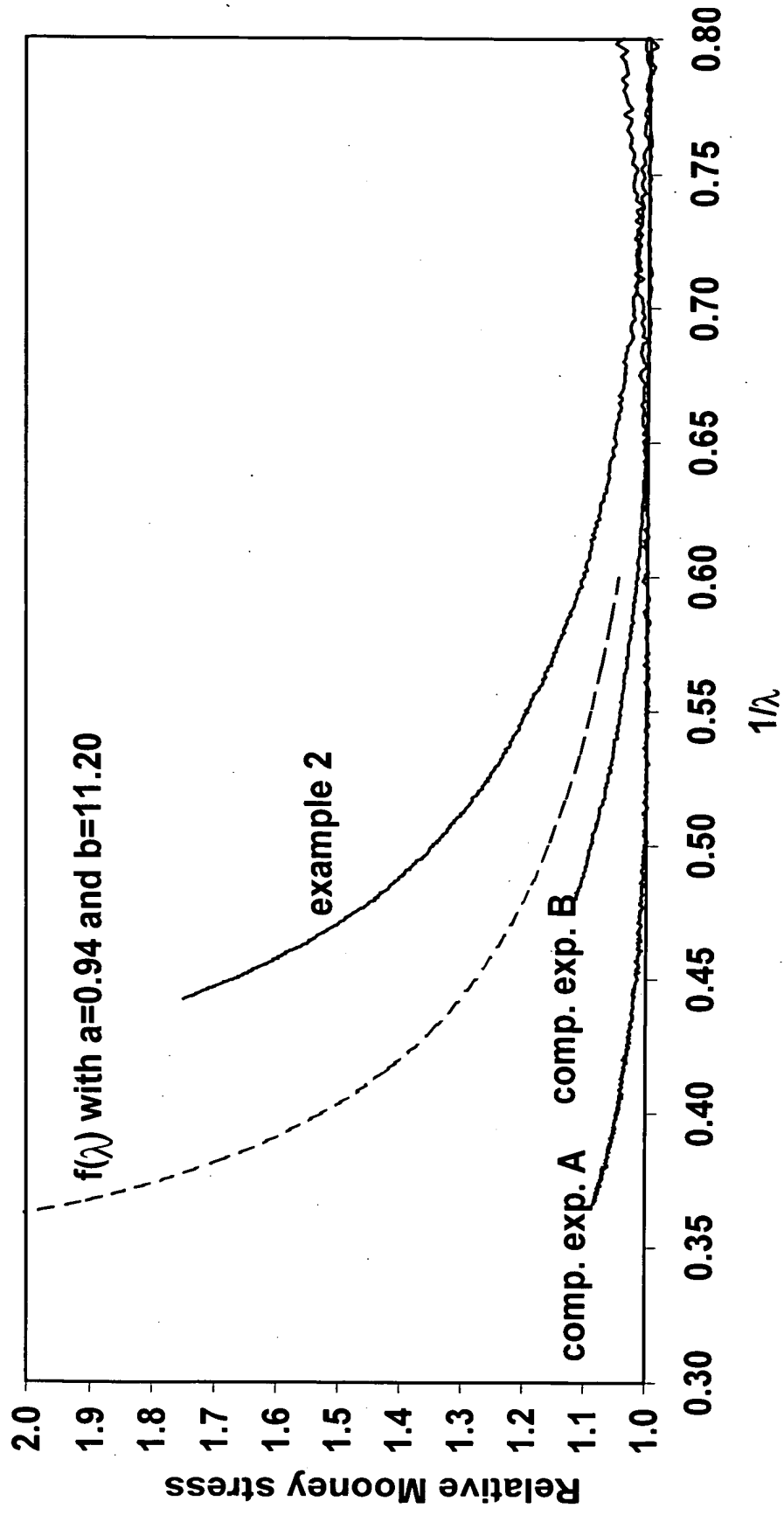
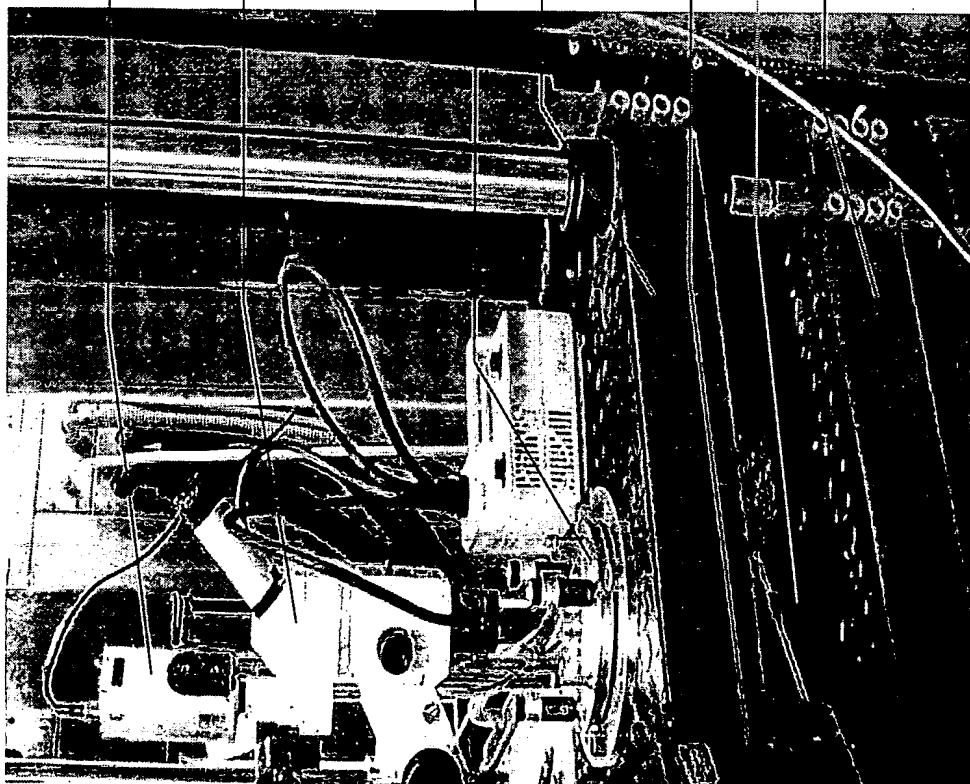


Figure 5: Relative Mooney plots of primary coatings



Digital CCD

Microscope

Top fixture with parallelity adjustment

Moving plate of tensile testing machine

Displacement transducer

Load cell attached to lower sample fixture

Fixed plate of tensile testing machine

Figure 6
Photograph 1: Set up for cavitation strength measurement

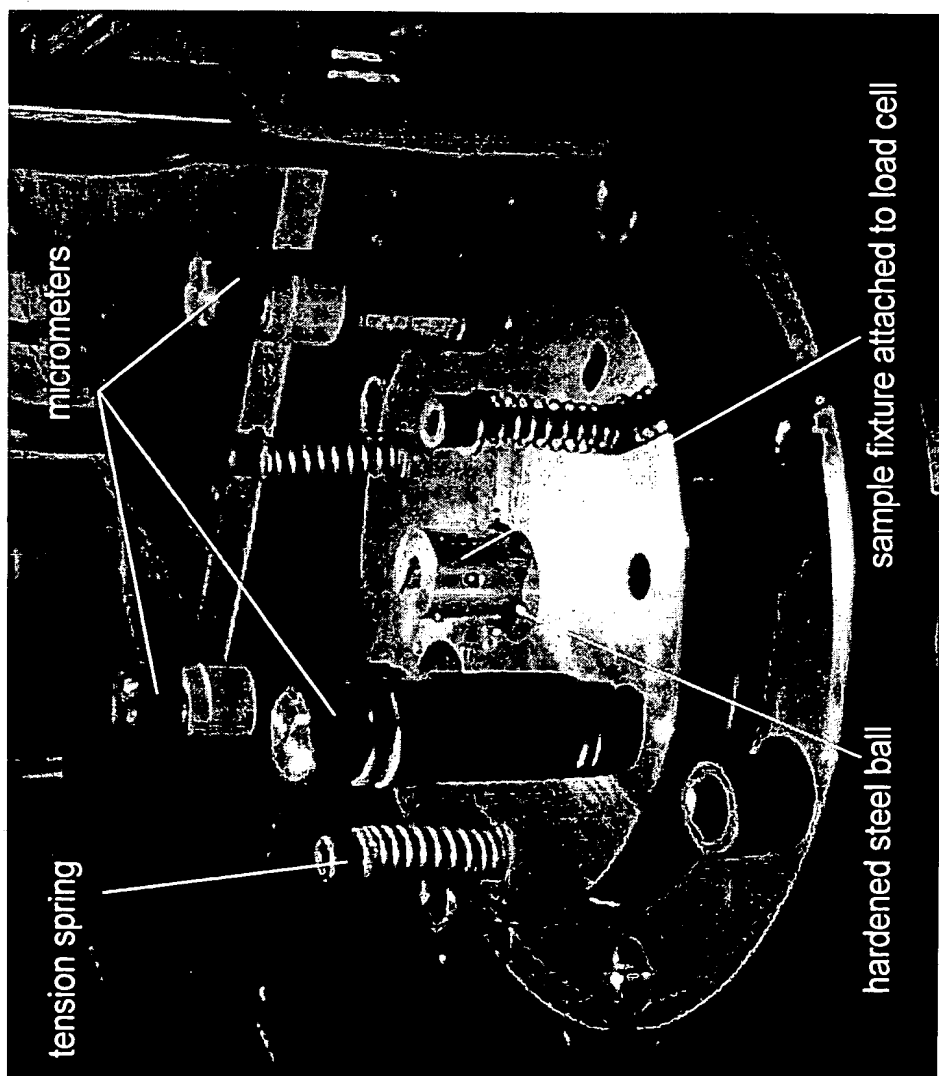
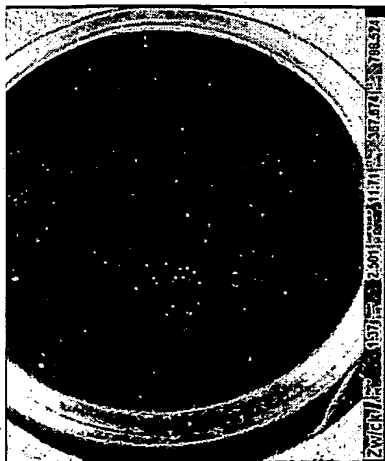


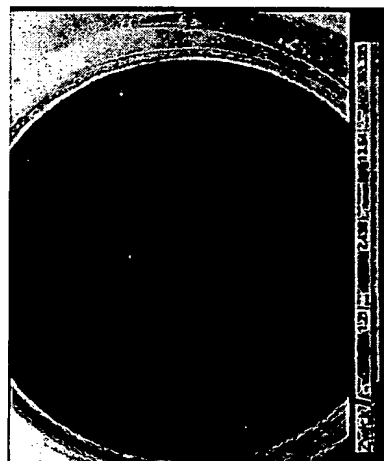
Figure 7
Photograph 2: Top plate with parallelism adjustment.

8A



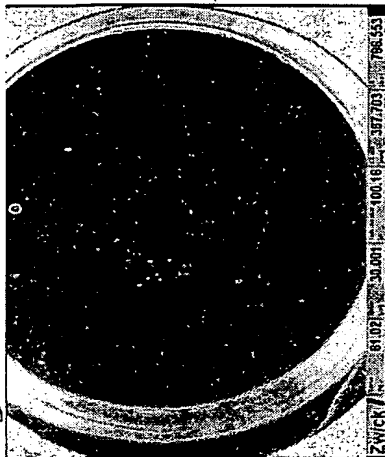
no cavities at F=1.37 N

8D



no cavities at F=1.21 N

8B



2 cavities at F=61.02 N

8E



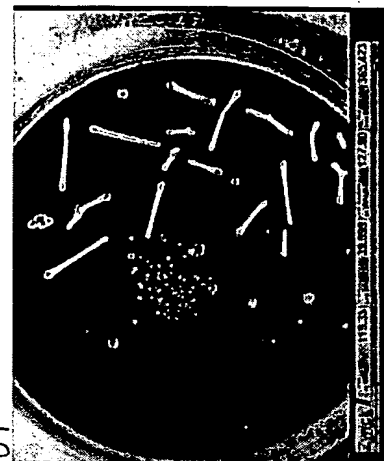
2 cavities at F=47.29 N

8C



25 cavities at F=132.24 N

8F



25 cavities at F=119.35 N

Figure 8

Photograph 3: samples of two primary coatings A and B with cavities; appearance of cavities as a function of the applied force

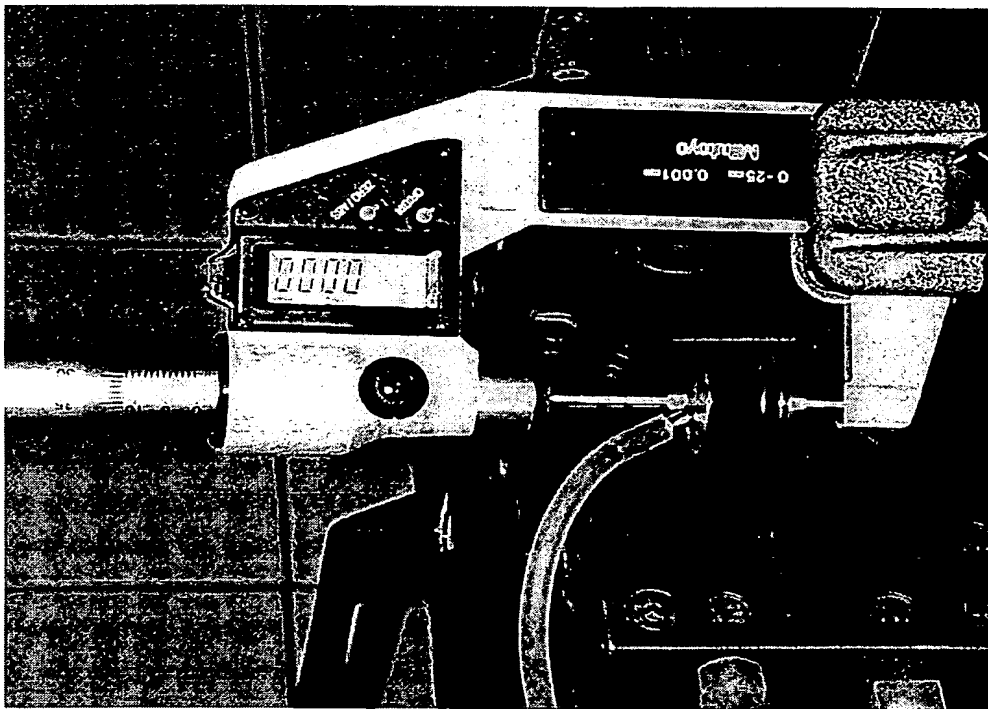


Figure 9

Photograph 4: Micrometer set-up in sample preparation for cavitation strength measurement